

## Hindu Funeral Rites For One's Animal



Yes I know how this sounds... But bear with me on this one...

This is something not even discussed amongst us Hindus yet if you look at most Hindu homes they have a dog or a cat. I cant understand why this is not discussed more in detail, and when that dog or cat dies most or practically all Hindus don't know what to do. We are hoping with this article we can shed some light on this matter. Of course we are treading on new ground here so bear with us.

Animals occupy an important place in Hinduism. They are frequently mentioned in our scriptures and enjoy a place of their own in as vehicles of many deva's and devi's as divinities and also as incarnations or aspects of Lord Vishnu. They embellish and beautify Hindu decorative art and temple architecture, adorning the outer walls and towers of temples as objects of beauty or being installed inside as objects of veneration.

How to increase your vibrations i.e good vibrations in your life or your house, well get an animal. According to Power vs. Force, a purring cat vibrates at 500 (anything over 200 is Good..) Dogs vibrate at around 800.

Now about the death of an animal. So when a dog or cat or any animal for that matter dies it goes straight to Yamaloka so Yamadev can allocate that soul a new body in its next birth. Animals are not subjected to karma like humans... We as humans have the ability to differentiate right from wrong but animals don't have that luxury. So in some sense they are fortunate... Humans have to travel almost a year to go to Yamaloka... This is due to Karma that's incurred while alive. Most animals due to their karma go straight to Yamaloka because they don't incur Karma like us humans BUT some animals remain behind to be a guide for their previous masters... This happens...

There has been cases but extremely rare cases where an animal has went straight from an animal body to the spiritual world which is (I might add) is extremely rare to attain. One such case of in the Caitanya Caritamrita where the great saint Sivananda Sena fed a dog and that dog happened to pass on almost immediately after that. From the Caitanya Caritamrita (Antya-līlā) “Śivānanda Sena took a dog with him and even paid fees for it to cross the river. One night, however, the dog could not get any food and therefore went

directly to Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu at Jagannātha Purī. The next day, when Śivānanda and his party reached Jagannātha Purī, Śivānanda saw the dog eating some coconut pulp offered to it by Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu. After this incident, the dog was liberated and went back home, back to Godhead.”



Bharat Maharaja and the Deer

The dog is associated with Lord Indra, Lord Yamaraja and Lord Shiva. Indra had a bitch by name Sarama whose progeny became the watchdogs of Yamaloka the nether world of Lord Yama. In the epic Mahabharata there is a katha in which Lord Yama accompanies the Pandavas all the way to the heavens in the guise of a dog to test the wisdom of Lord Dharmaraj, his son and the eldest brother of the Pandavas. The dog is also associated with Lord Shiva who is known as svapathi or the lord of the dogs. Bhairava a fierce form of Lord Shiva, has a dog as an attendant. Khanoba, an aspect of Lord Shiva, who is worshipped in Maharashtra, had a dog as his vehicle. Lord Dattatreya who is a personification of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva is always accompanied by four dogs who symbolize the four Vedas.

Some years back my dog named Remus (bless his soul) loved Rhot (the offerings we offer to Shree Hanumanji). Now every house I went to perform their puja, they knew they had to also give me two extra Rhot for Remus. Now somehow Remus knew that when I come back from my pujas I will have Rhot for him... He loved prashad... and when he died he had the most glorious death.

So when I perform my Pitr Paksha Tarpan (when we offer water to the ancestors) I also include and chant Remus's name. Why not, to me he was not a dog but a member of my family... He gave me many happy times... so include your passed on animal names as well

when you offer your Pitr Paksha offerings

### God, Man, Animals and Souls

According to Hinduism, spiritually there is no distinction between human beings and other life forms. All life forms, including plants and animals, are manifestations of God as limited beings (jivas) and possess souls. There are no exceptions. Even micro organisms are jivas, having souls of their own. According to our Hindu Shastras, animals are not inferior creatures, but manifestations of God on the lower scale of evolution compared to man, each containing a spark of the divine, capable of becoming human and achieving salvation like the rest of us. Human life is precious because it comes after many many many lives of existence in the lower life forms. In the whole creation only human beings, have the opportunity to achieve salvation or ascend to the planes of the spiritual world (Vaikuntha). Human life is therefore extremely valuable and unique. But if human beings choose to ignore the great opportunity earned by them through their previous karma and indulge in irresponsible actions, they may very likely regress into animal existence and have to start all over again. We have therefore a special responsibility to practice dharma and work for our liberation.

### Animals as Divinities

Us Hindus revere many divinities in animal form. Lord Vishnu incarnated upon earth first as a fish, then as a tortoise and next as a boar. In another incarnation He appeared as half lion and half man. He is worshipped in all these forms. Shree Hanumanji is a monkey Deity who assisted Lord Rama in the Ramayana. He is worshipped throughout India and, though of a lesser Deity, ranks among the foremost in the Hindu pantheon. Lord Ganesh the elephant headed Deva and son of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati is equally popular, if not more.

Besides Shree Hanumanji, animals played an important role in the epic battle of Ramayana. Jatayu, the eagle, loses his life fighting against Ravana when he is carrying away Mother Sita after kidnapping Her. During His wanderings in search of Mother Sita, accompanied by His brother Shree Lakshmanji, Shree Raam comes across Sugriva, the monkey king of Kishkindha whom he helps against his brother Bali. Jatayu's brother provides a clue to the search party of monkeys headed by Shree Hanumanji that Mother Sita was held in captive by the demon King Ravana. Then accompanied by an army of monkeys, bears and other animals Lord Raam leaves for Lanka to rescue His wife. The monkeys and other animals build an incredible bridge across the ocean to the island country of Ravana. They destroy the vast army of Ravana and help Lord Raam in rescuing His wife. The story of Ramayana is a reminder of the Hindu belief that in the universal scheme of things God does not distinguish between humans and animals and that all living beings have an equal status but play different roles.

### Animals as Vehicles of The Deva's and Devi's

In the Hindu pantheon each Devi and Deva is associated with an animal as a vehicle. Symbolically the vehicles represent the animal energies or qualities or skills which need to be strengthened or sublimated in our lower nature with the help of the divinities who can transform them. The knowledge of vehicles is therefore very useful in knowing which divinity can help us in transforming our inner energies. The list of the Deva's and Devi's

vehicles are mentioned below:

<b>Divinity</b>	<b>Vehicle</b>
Lord Ganesha	Mouse /Rat
Lord Brahma	Swan
Lord Vishnu	Garuda or eagle
Lord Shiva	Nandi or bull
Lord Indra	Elephant Airavatha
Agni-deva	Ram
Vayu-deva	Thousands of horses, antelope, lion.
Varuna-deva	Swans, crocodile or makara
Suryadeva	A chariot driven by seven horses
Skanda Kumara (Muruga)	Peacock
Saraswathi	Peacock or swan
Lakshmi	Owl
Parvathi or Durga or Chandi	Lion
Maheswari	Bull
Vaisnavi	Eagle
Kaumari	Peacock
Brahmi	Swan
Aindri	Elephant
Kama	Parrot, Cuckoo or Swan
Soma	A two or three wheeled chariot drawn by ten horses
Mangala	Ram
Budha	A chariot drawn by four horses
Brihaspathi	Golden chariot drawn by eight horses
Sukra	Eight horses
Sani	Vulture, crow, buffalo or an iron chariot drawn by eight horses,
Rahu	Black lion
Ketu	Vulture
Kubera	Shoulders of a man or a carriage drawn by men or an elephant or ram,
Yama	He buffalo
Nritti	Donkey, lion, man
Ishana	Bull
Ganga	Crocodile



So I did drift away from the topic in hand so we shall discuss this further now...

If your animal is about to leave their body, try to chant the Maha Mantra or any mantra that you feel comfortable with... Try to make your pet drink some Ganga water, eat a little Prashad, and try to make sure its comfortable... When your pet soul has left its body this is called death and now you need to still put a few drops of Ganga water in its mouth and then place a few Tulsi Twigs into its mouth... This ensures your animal will get a very nice higher birth in its next life.

You need to call your local SPCA (their phone numbers are given below) to arrange for your pet to be picked up or you can travel to the SPCA yourself. I would prefer the animal be cremated than buried, for hygienic and many other reasons...

SPCA DOES CREMATION and their details are below.

SPCA website : - [www.nspca.co.za](http://www.nspca.co.za)  
Tel: (011) 907-3590  
E-mail: [nspca@nspca.co.za](mailto:nspca@nspca.co.za)

#### **Durban**

**Open** Mon–Fri: 8am – 4pm// Saturday: 8am - 1pm // Closed Sundays and Public Holidays

**Telephone** : 031-579 6500 **Fax** : 031-579 4351

**Address** : Corner Willowfield Crescent & Inanda Road, Springfield Park, Durban

**Postal Address:** P O Box 74495 Rochdale Park 4034

**Email:** [info@spcadbn.org.za](mailto:info@spcadbn.org.za)

#### **JHB**

5 Benray Road, Reuven, Booyens (011) 681 3600 or 083 604 1172

1 Lotz Street, Delporton, Krugersdorp (011) 953 1135 or 072 295 5116

#### **Midrand**

6 Dale Road, Glen Austin, Midrand, 1685

011 265 9935 (Phone) 011 265 9937 (Fax) EMERGENCY: 083 441 1564/5

Mon - Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm Fridays 8:30am – 4:00pm Saturdays 8:30am to 12 noon  
Sundays and Public Holidays - CLOSED

**Cape of Good Hope**

cnr 1st Avenue and First Road Grassy Park Cape Town

Tel. +27 21 700-4140

non owned animal emergencies: 083 326 1604

owned animal emergencies: 021 700 4145/4164

Email: [enquiries@spca-ct.co.za](mailto:enquiries@spca-ct.co.za)

**Kloof and Highway**

Village Road, P.O.Box 87 Kloof KZN (031) 764 1212/3

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Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.

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